

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at the Historic Old Central High School, 215 North First Avenue East, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Gary Glass
Tim Grover
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson

Others Present:

Keith Dixon, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives

Marcus Jahn
Lindsey Redenbaugh

Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of January 18, 2011 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the agenda as presented.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to amend the agenda to add 2010 chair and clerks refusal to allow board member participation in the agenda setting session on January 4, 2011 at 12 noon.

Member Johnston and Member Glass indicated that they should have been allowed to attend the meeting. Member Grover pointed out that it would have been an illegal meeting if four board members attended. Board discussion took place regarding the motion to amend the agenda. Member Kasper asked if three board members signed a letter requiring a special meeting be held would the district have to call a special meeting. Superintendent Dixon stated that he believes that is what is in state statute and that he would look into it to confirm that.

Upon a vote the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to amend the agenda to have discussion on having the required hearing on closing schools before the decision is made per MN Statute 123B.51 School Houses and Sites Uses for Schools for Non School Purposes Closing subdivision 5.

Chair Seliga Punyko pointed out that this motion was brought forward at the meeting last month and that it has been voted down already. Member Johnston read the statute requiring hearings on school closings. Board discussion continued regarding the request to add the item to the agenda.

Upon a vote, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

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Upon a vote on the agenda as presented the same passed – 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of December 21, 2010.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 special school board meeting.

Member Johnston stated that he had made a request for a written attorney opinion on the legality of the meeting and that he had asked who gave Bill Hanson a verbal opinion that the meeting was legal and that he wanted that indicated in the minutes.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended – unanimously

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the regular school board meeting of December 21, 2010.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 regular school board meeting as amended. Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended:

Member Johnston stated that he had requested a dvd copy of the meeting and was told that he would have to pay a fee for it and that he doesn't believe he should have to pay for it.

Member Johnston stated that several of the motions that he made were not listed verbatim and that he wanted the minutes corrected to be verbatim.

Member Glass requested that the handout presented during the truth in taxation presented be added to the minutes for the record.

Member Johnston asked to have the handout from the Human Resources report discussed during budgetary considerations added to the minutes for the record.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended - unanimously

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the organizational meeting of January 4, 2011.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 organizational school board meeting.

Member Grover noted corrections given to the board prior to the meeting.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended – unanimously

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Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special board meeting of January 4, 2011.

M-Wasson S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 special school board meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Public Comments
January 2011

Henry Banks, no address provided, spoke to the board regarding the creation of an ethnic film festival in Duluth and that they are looking for help with funding for the festival.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding the day he was removed from the meeting and the comparisons made to tragedy in Florida by the media.

Jeanie Nelson, 211 West 4th Street, spoke to the board on behalf of the Ethnic Film Festival regarding the importance of promoting and fostering communities color.

Board members asked questions about the ethnic film festival.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
January 2011

Superintendent Dixon acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
January 2011

Superintendent Dixon presented a video production of his state of the district address.

Education Committee Report
January 2011

Member Wasson presented the Education Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept grants by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the grant in accordance with the donor's terms is in the best interest of the Duluth Public Schools:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools does accept the below-described grants from said organizations in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to these various organizations.

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1.	Northland Foundation	Susan Anderson, Special Education Teacher at Merritt Creek Academy	Merritt Creek Academy Service Learning Project	\$900	Funds from this grant award will be used to support a service learning project involving approximately fifty students at Merritt Creek Academy each completing a knitted hat in Art class and donating it to a local charity of his/her choice.

Resolution E-1-11-2853

January 18, 2011

M-Wasson, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution E-1-11-2853 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Wasson, S-Grover, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee report as presented.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.C.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.A. Intercultural Leadership Project Overview and Summary to note that the presentation regarding the project was very good. Discussion took place regarding the program and other similar teaching programs within the District.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.C. Response to Intervention (RTI) Model Overview to ask if there is a cost and if so could it be done in house. Tawnyea Bolme Lake stated that it is a philosophy and frame work and there is no purchase required.

Upon a vote taken on the remainder of the Education Committee as presented - the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

January 2011

Member Cameron presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
January 2011

Member Grover presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
2011 Legislative Platform

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2011 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

B-1-11-2854

January 18, 2011

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-1-11-2854 – 2011 Legislative Platform.

Member Johnston noted concerns with the platform and the cost for a lobbyist.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to refer the Legislative Platform back to the committee to try to do a better job on it.

Board discussion took place regarding the platform and the District's lobbyist.

Upon a vote on the motion, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Upon a vote on the resolution, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Glass, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Johnston

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorizing the Superintendent or Director of Business Services to Enter into an Agreement for the Purpose of Repairing or Replacing the Roof at the Bell Level of the Clock Tower at Historic Old Central High School (HOCHS); and for the Purpose of Installing Storm Water Utility Pipe at the Grant School Site

WHEREAS, the School Board by Resolution B-6-07-2452 adopted a Long-range

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Facilities Plan for the District which included the correction of building and site deficiencies of the District's existing buildings and sites; and

WHEREAS, work is currently in progress to replace/repair portions of the roof at HOCHS consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Long-range Facilities Plan; and

WHEREAS, while performing this work, a structural concern was identified related to the roof at the bell level of the clock tower presenting a safety concern; and

WHEREAS, since the roof is now open and exposed to weather conditions which must be addressed in a more timely manner than the bidding process would allow, this work will require a change order to the roofing contractor or a Request for Quotes to expedite this process and allow for completion of this work; and

WHEREAS, certain storm water utility work must be completed at Grant School prior to March 2011 to allow the project to proceed on schedule and to take advantage of current low storm water flow conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the School Board hereby specifically authorizes the Superintendent or Director of Business Services to:

- A. Request quotes or approve a change order to the current contract for the roofing work in progress at HOCHS and to enter into a contract or change order where the total cost of this work does not exceed \$100,000.00; and
- B. Request quotes for the materials and labor required to install a section of storm sewer at the Grant School site and to enter into a contract where the total cost of this work does not exceed \$100,000.00.

of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2011 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

B-1-11-2855

January 18, 2011

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-1-11-2855 – Authorizing the Superintendent or Director of Business Services to Enter into an Agreement for the Purpose of Repairing or Replacing the Roof at the Bell Level of the Clock Tower at Historic Old Central High School (HOCHS); and for the Purpose of Installing Storm Water Utility Pipe at the Grant School Site. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Business committee report.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.F.

Member Grover withheld Item 6.F.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.C., 3.A.1) for a separate vote, and 6.A.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note payments to JCI, the DNT, and legal services.

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Member Johnston withheld Item 1.C. – Budget Revisions to ask questions about the difference between revised and adopted budget. Jody LeBlanc explained the differences in the document.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to express his concerns with the loss of students and stated that he would like a special meeting to talk about how to stop the student loss.

Upon a separate vote on Item 3.A.1) – Annual Review of Policy 8030 – School Board Member Compensation, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.A. to indicate that he does support that item.

Member Grover withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Relating to the Long Range Facilities Plan to note some changes made that did not come through in printing.

Upon a vote taken on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Other
January 2011

Member Glass noted some items he would like considered at next week's committee of the whole budget meeting.

Member Glass made a motion to assign Members Glass, Johnston and Kasper to the negotiations committee. Chair Seliga Punyko stated that the item would have to be added to the agenda in order to vote on it. Discussion took place regarding the process for negotiations.

Board members shared what they learned at the MSBA conference.

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the regular school board meeting of January 18, 2011 at 8:57 p.m.